

News Release



CHURCHILL DOWNS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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STEPHEN FOSTER HANDICAP QUOTES

JOE BRAVO, jockey of BRADESTER (winner): “He’s a pretty fun horse, he does all the hard work for you. He kind of reminds me of his father Lion Heart who I rode in the Haskell. I just kind of rode him like his dad and you saw what he did today.”

EDDIE KENNEALLY, trainer of BRADESTER (winner): “He’s won five or six graded stakes prior to today, but to win a Grade I with him is phenomenal. Now he has established himself. He is a beautiful horse so now he’s got credentials to be a stallion hopefully at some point in his career here in Kentucky and I think he’s earned that right. He’s been a durable and hard-knocking horse and it’s great to finally win a Grade I. He was coming into the race great so we decided to take a shot. For a 6-year-old he’s relatively light and has been lightly raced and he’s a horse that runs well fresh so we gave him the winter off after the Breeders’ Cup. He came back with a huge run at Monmouth a month ago.

“This race came up with a shorter field than in past years, so we figured it was a good opportunity for him to take a shot at some Grade I horses. Looking at the form he is the true speed of the race. We didn’t know if he was going to be pressed through the first part of the race too hard and maybe just get the air knocked out of him, but I felt like if he could dictate the pace all alone on the front end that he could run them into the ground. (Jockey) Joe (Bravo) rode him with so much confidence and we are just so delighted for the whole team. We have a great crew and we couldn’t have done any of this without them.”

BRIAN HERNANDEZ JR., jockey of EAGLE (second): “He ran hard. I wish we’d have got there. We were just a little late. I mean, coming from that far back, he ran a big race. He did all we can ask for. We just weren’t lucky enough to get the bob today.”

NEIL HOWARD, trainer of EAGLE (second): “He ran great. I knew we’d be back there, but he looked comfortable. He ran good. You know these Grade Is are hard to win. ... We were pleased.”

COREY LANERIE, jockey of MAJESTIC HARBOR (third): “Beautiful trip, sitting right behind him. My horse ran his race. Just wasn’t good enough to be ’em today. But no excuse. We just didn’t get it done. He ran a beautiful race. He tries his butt off. He’s so fun to ride. He breaks sharp. He’s the kind of horse every rider wants to ride because you don’t really have to overcome much trouble. He puts you in a good spot and does his thing.”

PAUL McGEE, trainer of MAJESTIC HARBOR (third): “He dug in and ran hard.”

GARY STEVENS, jockey of EFFINEX (sixth as the favorite): “He didn’t get away real clean, but I got to where I wanted to be into the first turn on the outside part, three wide and the two horses I thought would be in front of me were. But I was done early. I hate to say it. I wasn’t traveling like a winner at any point during the race. I was just hoping things would change. A lot of times with these good horses you can’t really tell what you got. We got into the turn and I was empty. ... I was done early.”

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